



Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

Polk County

County characteristics

- 917 square miles
- Southern ½ prairie, agriculture and mixed woods, northern ½ northern hardwoods forest.
- 437 lakes, 36 classified trout streams as well as the St. Croix, Clam, Trade and Apple Rivers.
- Large numbers of resident and migratory waterfowl.
- One of best deer hunting counties in the state.
- There are 41,319 residents living in Polk County.



State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing



- 23,000 acres of State Land, including wildlife and fisheries areas, Interstate State Park, and Governor Knowles State Forest.
- 22,000 acres open to hunting

Locate DNR properties at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html

Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you

- 1 Wildlife Biologist; 1 Fisheries Biologist; 2 Conservation Wardens; 2 Customer Service Representatives.
- Barron Field Office (715) 537-5046 and Cumberland Service Center (715) 822-3590.
- Wildlife, Fisheries and Customer Service staff also serve Barron Co.

Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars

- Comprehensive fish surveys on Half Moon Lake 2001, Balsam Lake 2002, Big Butternut Lake, 2003, Pipe Lake 2004, Deer Lake 2004, Long Lake 2004, Balsam Lake 2005, Half Moon 2006, Magnor and Wapogasset Lakes 2007.
- Comprehensive walleye and muskellunge stocking evaluations on 4-8 lakes per year.
- Fish surveys planned on over 100 stream sites in 2005-2007.
- Wild brown trout stocking evaluation on the McKenzie Creek completed in 2004-2005.
- Wild brook trout restorations on Behning and Osceola Creeks started in 2004.
- Assist with long term maintenance of aeration systems used to prevent fish kills on area lakes.
- Develop, manage, and maintain 1,000 acres of wetland habitat and 2,000 acres of grassland habitat for wildlife.
- Manage and maintain 14,000 acres of woodland for forest wildlife and recreation.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, as well as building and maintaining parking areas. Maintain trails for hunting, wildlife viewing, and nature study.
- Monitor local wildlife populations of deer, bear, ruffed grouse, ducks, geese, pheasant, wild turkey, bald eagle, osprey, amphibians, small mammals, furbearers, and trumpeter swans.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.
- Cooperate with Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and Wild Turkey Federation to develop, manage, and maintain wetland, grassland, and woodland on private land.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations, sportsmen's clubs, and civic groups.

Activities continued...

- Wardens partnered with the members of the Polk County Sportsmen's Club and volunteers to "baby-sit" spawning muskies at a local park called Kennedy Mill to watch for illegal harvest.
- Wardens showed the kids at the Balsam Lake Special Education School how to ice fish and assisted them with drilling holes and baiting hooks.
- Every year wardens assist the St. Croix Falls School at the Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp. Presentations are provided to the students attending the camp. The students are also provided with information about fish and wildlife and about being a conservation warden.
- Wardens have been working with a fur buyer that has been tanning hides for a Polk County Fur Collection. Fur collected from incidental catches, donations, and car kills are being utilized. The goal is have an example of every furbearer that lives in WI for use at sport shows and school talks.
- Wardens are currently working with the Polk County Sportsman Club in developing a wildlife display for sport shows. The display will have several mounted animals that were seized within the county. The club has been paying local taxidermist for their supplies and the taxidermist has been doing the work for free.
- Wardens also conduct various hunting, fishing and trapping investigations issuing over 200 citations for fish and game violations.

Polk County Conservation Snapshots

2003 Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary

- 1,484,000 walleye fry and 27,162 walleye small fingerlings
- 71,500 brown, brook and rainbow trout small fingerlings
- 3,027 muskellunge large fingerlings

9 DNR maintained boat landings
700 acres of waterfowl flowages
30,000 acres of public forest
12 Big game registration stations
14 Wildlife and fisheries properties

County Success Stories

- Installed aeration system to prevent fish winterkills on Lotus Lake in 2004.
- Installed walleye spawning reef in Big Round Lake in 2003.
- Renovated boat landings at Big Round and Wapogasset Lakes.
- Developed 600 acre Joel Marsh Flowage in 2000.
- Straight River Wildlife Area and Straight Lake Wilderness State Park acquired 2005.
- One of the highest concentrations of nesting trumpeter swans in the state.
- Wild turkeys are well established in one of the most northern zones in the state.
- 300 acres of wetland restored on private land in the last 10 years.
- Wildlife staff provides input on county forest plans and helps develop wildlife projects on the Polk County Forest.

Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
 - Fish and wildlife stocking programs; Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management